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Special Registry

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29 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. At the request of the Executive Director I travelled to [redacted] yesterday with [redacted] of ORD to discuss certain mutual problems with research officials of [redacted]. The meeting had been requested by [redacted] in late July. Yesterday's date was set in accordance with preferences of University officials. They had indicated a desire to discuss certain aspects pertaining to a contract for infrared imagery research at the University under ORD jurisdiction.

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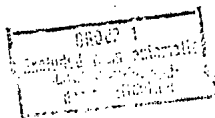
[redacted]

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3. In a nutshell, the University officials made the case that they found themselves in difficulty in knowing how to deal with any inquiry from the press or other public sectors. They noted that the existence of the contract is classified even though it is an unclassified fact that similar research is being undertaken by the university under contract with various DoD components. Because the existence of the contract is classified the university spokesmen would have to deny the existence of the contract and this would be a lie. The university does not wish to lie and proposes that the Agency consider declassifying the fact that the contract exists. This would permit the university to list in an appropriately sanitized form in its catalogue some reference to the contract and specific reference to CIA as the contractor.

4. I told the University officials that I thought their proposal had merit and that I would respond with a clear-cut yes or no in writing within the next week or ten days. I said that I would personally

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challenge the need for classification of the contract's existence and that I believed their request could be met. I pointed out and the University officials recognized that specific reference to this contract might bring on the very inquiry they hoped would not arise. I said that it was my hope that they would stand up and be counted in the event of inquiry and take a positive and constructive attitude toward the importance of the university association with us in doing work in the national interest. The University officials clearly understood this and impressed me as perfectly willing to take such a stance.

5. In the course of the discussions I registered the DCI's and Executive Director's personal concern about the relationships with universities. I said that I was attending the meeting as the personal representative of the Director and that we fully intended to be as constructive and sensitive as possible in reaching solutions to problems. I explained our need to make use of the best available brains to help solve problems, that we value our associations with universities, that we are intensifying scientific research, that it would be foolish for us to construct expensive in-house laboratories, and that we feel a moral obligation to seek the aid and support of scientific facilities and know-how.

6. I said there was nothing sinister in our campus programs, that we have no desire to penetrate, direct, influence, etc. I mentioned the review of university relationships recently undertaken which included a hard look at the need for cover and clandestinity pertaining to these relationships.

7. I said we hoped all of these relationships could continue but we obviously could not insist that they do. If a university wishes to stipulate provisos or qualifications we will be glad to consider them. The university need only say what they are.

8. In the course of the conversations it also became convenient and meaningful for me to set the record straight [redacted]

9. All of this seemed to have a very profitable effect on the meeting and appeared to be appreciated by the university officers.

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10. [] at present is looking into what problems there are, if any, in declassifying the existence of the contract. I have drafted a letter to [] advising him of declassification. This letter will be checked with Agency authorities for approval prior to mailing.

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E. H. KNOCHE

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D/ORD via A-DD/S&T
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